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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 94 (d)
Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 6 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the conclusions of the International Workshop on Economic Vulnerability and Resilience of Small States, held on the Island of Gozo, Malta, from 1 to 3 March 2004 (see annex). On behalf of the States and organizations participating and at their request, we ask that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 94 (d).

We believe that this will be a substantial contribution to the success of the International Meeting in Mauritius.

(*Signed*) Victor **Camilleri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations

04-30940 (E) 150404

Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

FINAL STATEMENT

CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF SMALL STATES

Organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the University of Malta
at the University Gozo Centre, Island of Gozo, Malta, 1-3 March 2004

Introduction

1. Twenty-six experts from all Commonwealth regions participated in a workshop on economic vulnerability and resilience of small states held at the University Gozo Centre, Malta, between 1 and 3 March 2004. These included academics, practitioners, policy makers, and representatives of international and regional organizations.

2. This workshop took place in the context of preparations for the International Meeting for the review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The workshop discussed features of economic vulnerability of small states, particularly SIDS, and strategies for developing their resilience; and took account of the conclusion of the *ad hoc* expert group on Vulnerability Indices, which met in New York in December 1997, that "as a group, SIDS are more vulnerable than other groups of developing countries". The participants also discussed trade as the main engine of growth and development.

3. Participants noted that:

- the regional preparatory meetings for the International Meeting, held in Samoa, Cape Verde and Trinidad and Tobago, confirmed that SIDS, as a group, face particular handicaps as a result of the economic, environmental and social vulnerability.
- the Interregional Preparatory Meeting of SIDS, held in Nassau, The Bahamas in January 2004, reconfirmed the economic vulnerability of SIDS and called for the development of an economic resilience index.

4. The participants also considered a number of issues that are of concern to small states, notably:

- the issue of graduation from least developed country (LDC) status of a number of SIDS; and
- the need for special and differentiated treatment and necessary policy space for small states, particularly SIDS, within the World Trade Organization (WTO).

5. Participants recognized the role that a focused conceptual framework on vulnerability and resilience building could play in addressing these concerns, as well as in strengthening national and regional policy approaches. They also recognized the need for participatory and collaborative schemes, involving all major stakeholders, to ensure the success of resilience strategies.

Vulnerability and resilience of small states

6. The participants reaffirmed that the inherent economic vulnerabilities of small states have been internationally recognized. Such vulnerability arises from exposure to adverse external shocks beyond their control, as well as structural handicaps, exacerbated by *inter alia* a high

degree of openness, export concentration and high dependence on strategic imports, remoteness and high transport costs, susceptibility to natural disasters exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise. These conditions pose serious handicaps for the sustainable economic development of small states.

7. Small states have not been complacent in this regard, and there are many instances of successful practices to build resilience that could be emulated. In this regard, technical and financial assistance and cooperation from the international community is of paramount importance to support efforts of small states to build their capacity to cope with their vulnerability and to build up resilience.

Recommendations for small states

8. In order to build resilience, small states should:

(h) take steps to promote good governance by pursuing appropriate policies to ensure political stability and the enforcement of the rule of law, to address the issue of corruption, as well as to promote accountability, transparency and efficiency in the delivery of public services;

(i) strive to create a sound macroeconomic framework, including low inflation, exchange rate stability, and acceptable fiscal and external balances;

(j) undertake market reform by promoting fair trade practices and fostering competitiveness;

(k) enhance labour productivity and labour market flexibility with the collaboration and participation of social partners and other relevant stakeholders;

(l) promote social cohesion, support poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods and foster harmonious social development;

(m) protect and sustainably manage the environment, notably by taking steps to increase energy efficiency, promote waste management, improve freshwater resources management, and encourage sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources; and

(n) promote innovation, research and technology as sources of competitiveness.

9. In this context the usefulness of a resilience index should be explored.

Regional and international dimensions

10. The negotiating capacity of small states, particularly SIDS, should be enhanced by appropriate analytical tools, such as vulnerability indices. The support of regional and international organizations would strengthen this process.

11. The work carried out by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in formulating a collective position for SIDS in international fora, in particular those where international instruments are negotiated, should be supported. Furthermore, the progress made in formalizing the AOSIS structure was welcomed.

12. Participants commended the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat to foster co-ordination among small states in their efforts to be considered as meriting special treatment within the WTO.

13. Participants expressed their gratitude to the international and regional organisations that have supported efforts by small states to promote their sustainable development. They were also appreciative of the work carried out by Universities and research institutions, notably the University of Malta, the University of the West Indies and the University of the South Pacific, in

the interests of small states. Participants urged the continuation of this work within the context of the proposed SIDS University Consortium.

Recommendations for the international community

14. Participants urged the:

a) UN Commission for Sustainable Development to take note of the conclusions of the workshop at its preparatory meeting for the Mauritius International Meeting (14 to 16 April 2004), and to request the international donor community to support SIDS in their resilience-building efforts;
b) Relevant UN agencies, including the UN Workshop on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), to continue providing support to small states, particularly SIDS, towards the promotion of sustainable development in general and resilience building in particular;
c) International donor community, including multilateral financial organizations, to extend financial and technical support to small states in their efforts to cope with their inherent vulnerability and to build their resilience;
d) The WTO to take account of the special trade concerns and needs of small states, particularly SIDS, and their vulnerabilities arising from trade liberalisation and globalisation, and accordingly consider granting special and differentiated treatment to such states.

Future Work

15. Recognising the importance of a rigorous framework on resilience-building, participants agreed on the need for the work to continue towards developing a resilience index as well as a broader set of tools to support national and regional policy making.

Acknowledgments

16. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of Malta and the University of Malta for their kind hospitality and warm welcome and for creating congenial conditions for a successful meeting.

17. The participants also thanked the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Minister for Gozo for their contributions to the deliberations, and the support expressed by both ministers in promoting measures in favour of small states.

18. The participants requested the Government of Malta to submit these workshop conclusions to the Secretary General of the UN for circulation as an official document of the UN.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 44
Culture of peace

Letter dated 7 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the resolution entitled "Proclamation of an international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples", which was adopted at the thirty-second session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 16 October 2003 (see annex).

The resolution was initiated and sponsored by the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the above-mentioned session.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

04-31219 (E) 190404

Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Resolution 30 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session

Proclamation of an international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples

The General Conference,

Referring to the Constitution of UNESCO, which proclaims that peace must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind,

Taking into account United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001 proclaiming the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, and the goals and principles contained therein,

Noting the active efforts and valuable contribution of many Member States of UNESCO to the development of dialogue among civilizations and the strengthening of peace and mutual understanding among peoples,

Aspiring to act jointly with other States for the sake of peace, security and stability at the global and regional levels,

Recognizing that the world is confronted with tremendous challenges to its security when the stability of States is undermined by terrorism, extremism and aggressive separatism, and when emerging conflicts frequently lead to overt armed confrontation on the part of the State,

Expressing alarm that outbreaks of violence in various regions engender speculation about the "clash of civilizations", that the world is seen as divided into opposing cultures, ideologies and religious outlooks,

Recalling that true dialogue among civilizations, which is a prerequisite for the harmonious development of the world, is only possible in an atmosphere of absolute respect in which the fundamental and universal values of human existence are put into practice,

Emphasizing the contribution of world religions to the furtherance of human civilization through the eternal values of goodness and high moral standards,

Voicing the conviction that the processes of globalization have reached such a level and force that, in order to ensure their further development, there is a need for generally recognized conceptual support in order to avert adverse consequences for all humankind,

1. *Proposes* that the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaim 2006 the international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples;

2. *Proposes* that Member States and international and non-governmental organizations prepare proposals for measures to be implemented within the framework of the proposed year with the aim of helping to develop dialogue among cultures and civilizations, shape the global consciousness, and develop the ethics of international dialogue;

3. *Invites* the Director-General:

   (a) to prepare, on the basis of the proposals of Member States, a draft programme of action for theproposed international year of global consciousness and the ethics of dialogue among peoples;

   (b) to submit that draft programme to the General Conference at its 33rd session, together with areport on the results of the preparatory work;

4. *Decides* to include an item on the celebration of such a year in the agenda of the 33rd session.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 15 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I include here below a summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon, as follows:

Between 1207 and 1500 hours on 4 April 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Sidon at medium altitude and circled over the regions of Sa`diyat and Tyre, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1130 hours on 7 April 2004, two Israeli helicopters overflew the occupied Shaba` Farms at medium altitude.

At 2045 hours on 10 April 2004, two Israeli helicopters overflew the occupied Shaba` Farms at medium altitude.

At 1615 hours on 11 April 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Tyre at medium altitude and circled over the regions of Tyre and Damur, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1915 hours on 12 April 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the region of Jazzin at medium altitude, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0030 and 0100 hours on 13 April 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the region of Jazzin at medium altitude, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1100 and 1125 hours on 13 April 2004, six Israeli military aircraft flying at various altitudes violated Lebanese airspace; four of them overflew the sea off Tripoli and then headed towards the region of Diniyah and two of them overflew the sea off Shakka and then headed eastwards.

Between 1842 and 2209 hours on 13 April 2004, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Sidon at medium altitude and then headed eastwards and circled over the regions of Jazzin-Shatura-Hamana and Shuf, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

04-31197 (E) 160404 160404

Between 1915 and 2050 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the region of Jazzin at medium altitude, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

These grave violations are part of a continuous series of provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace and territory in contravention of the principles of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, such that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has repeatedly called for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter Israel from such grave acts, which constitute a threat to international peace and security. Israel must assume full responsibility for the repercussions and consequences of these acts.

In drawing your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative